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Educator, CIA Ties Probed

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Senate Intelligence investigators are looking into relationships between the Central Intelligence Agency and educators, journalists, missionaries and publishing houses in the final stages of the inquiry into improper intelligence activities, it was reliably learned last night.

The scope of the investigation was confirmed by Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) chairman of the Senate intelligence committee.

Church issued a statement earlier however, saying that the committee has found no evidence that the agency had specifically violated the prohibitions laid down by President Johnson in 1967 against providing covert financial assistance to private U.S. voluntary organizations.

"What we have seen suggests that the CIA has scrupulously adhered to the 1967 guidelines laid down by President Johnson," Church said.

The Idaho Democrat's statement was prompted by a report in Tuesday's editions of The Washington Post citing congressional sources as saying the CIA had renewed its penetration of private educational and cultural organizations in the United States.

The report aroused consternation at the CIA's Langley headquarters and Church questioned staff members about the report. The Post story did not allege that the agency was giving financial assistance to private groups—the specific prohibition of the 1967 Johnson guidelines.

Church said that the committee staff is looking carefully into the issue of CIA covert relationships with educational and cultural institutions, the press and publishing houses and religious groups.

"The committee has been particularly attentive to this subject because the integrity and independence of such institutions is clearly essential to our own free society," Church said.

While there has been a tentative conclusion that the CIA has complied with the 1967 prohibitions, the new concern centers primarily on relations between individually subsidized journalists, authors, or professors and the CIA on one hand and the institutions for which they work on the other hand.

"We're interested, for example, in finding out whether professors are being paid by the CIA in secret ways or whether CIA is still engaged in underwriting certain books of the propaganda nature designed for use abroad but which find their way home," Church explained.

"We're also interested in finding out to what extent and which journalists are still employed by the CIA abroad and their connections with large American newspapers," he said.

The 1967 controversy was touched off by displeasure that the CIA had been secretly funding such organizations as the National Student Association as well as labor and educational organizations through a network of foundation conduits to serve the agency's operating programs abroad.

The presidential guidelines ordered by President Johnson decreed that "no federal agency shall provide any covert financial assistance or support, direct or indirect to any of the nation's educational or private voluntary organizations." The restriction did not, however, bar arrangements between the agency and individuals.